

Agribusiness Career Pathway

MISSOURI ECONOMIC RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
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What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are groups of occupations within a career field. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathways use industry-recognized credentials and are examples of how different levels of training or education can help provide opportunities for career advancement.

Missouri Numbers:



2,477 Employers



46,997 Workers



\$57,166 Average Wage

Why Have a Career in Agribusiness?

Agribusiness represents 1.9 percent of total private sector employment in Missouri, employing nearly 47,000 workers in over 2,400 businesses in 2024. Employment in Agribusiness has been steadily growing, increasing an average of 1.5 percent per year from 2019 to 2024. Missouri has high employment concentrations in Agribusiness, particularly in *Agriculture Chemical Manufacturing*, *Dairy Product Manufacturing*, and *Grain and Oilseed Milling*. Wages in Agribusiness averaged \$57,166 in 2024, lower than the \$64,754 state average for private industries.

Various careers are possible in fields such as Crop & Animal Production, Research & Development, Logging, and Business Operations & Sales.

Know the Basics

Agribusiness is defined as the group of industries dealing with agricultural products and services required in farming and food production. Durable, or soft, skills, such as interpersonal skills, professionalism, and dependability, are important in all industries and occupations, including Agribusiness occupations.

Skills needed for Success:

Agribusiness is a rapidly evolving industry. Understanding environmental impact on crops and livestock, as well as, keeping up with new research in crop, water, and soil management are important. Safety issues and quality control are also a critical part of this industry, so attention to detail and continuous learning are necessary.

Who's Hiring in Missouri?

MFA Inc.

Simmons Prepared Foods

Tyson Foods Inc.

Spectrum Brands

ADM



Crop & Animal Production

Research & Development

Now

Short-Term On-the-Job Training

Slaughterers & Meat Packers
Entry: \$42,080 Average: \$42,850

Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators
Entry: \$39,290 Average: \$47,550

Conveyor Operators & Tenders
Entry: \$36,500 Average: \$44,250

Certificates: Forklift Operator Safety Training

Weighers, Measurers, Checkers, & Samplers, Recordkeeping
Entry: \$38,480 Average: \$44,940

Certificates: American Society for Quality (ASQ); Certified Quality Auditor

Next

Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

Agricultural Equipment Operators
Entry: \$39,530 Average: \$48,630

Farmers, Ranchers, & Other Agricultural Mgrs.
Entry: \$70,220 Average: \$88,040

Farm Labor Contractors
Entry: N/A; Average: N/A

Degrees: Agricultural Business & Management

Agricultural Technicians
Entry: \$31,880 Average: \$49,500

Occupational Health & Safety Technicians
Entry: \$51,600 Average: \$64,650

Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, & Weighers
Entry: \$43,870 Average: \$55,630

Degrees: Chemistry; Environmental Health
Certificates: American Society for Quality (ASQ); Certified Quality Auditor

Later

Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

Industrial Production Managers
Entry: \$82,340 Average: \$118,370

Agricultural Inspectors
Entry: \$45,320 Average: \$51,780

Degrees: Engineering; Business Administration and Management

Food Scientists & Technologists
Entry: \$75,750 Average: \$104,060

Industrial Engineers
Entry: \$77,690 Average: \$99,020

Soil & Plant Scientists
Entry: \$47,840 Average: \$76,070

Degrees: Agriculture; Food Science; Engineering; Horticultural Science

Sources:

Lightcast™

Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse
2024 Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Top employers data is based on 2025 online job ads



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Logging

Business Operations & Sales

Now

Short-Term On-the-Job Training

**Laborers & Freight, Stock, &
Material Movers, Hand**
Entry: \$33,920 Average: \$39,900

Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators
Entry: \$39,290 Average: \$47,550

Certificates: Forklift Operator Safety Training

Driver/Sales Workers
Entry: \$30,320 Average: \$41,980

Shipping, Receiving, & Traffic Clerks
Entry: \$36,090 Average: \$43,520

Office Clerks, General
Entry: \$33,920 Average: \$44,200

Certificates: Business Operations Certificates

Next

Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
Entry: \$43,490 Average: \$54,480

Fallers
Entry: N/A Average: N/A

Logging Equipment Operators
Entry: \$35,300 Average: \$47,950

Certificates: Commercial Driver's License;
Construction/Heavy Equipment/Earthmoving
Equipment Operation

Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing
Entry: \$45,770 Average: \$74,740

Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks
Entry: \$39,130 Average: \$51,050

Transportation, Storage, & Distribution Managers
Entry: \$68,640 Average: \$105,680

Degrees: Accounting Technology/Technician;
Logistics; Materials; and Supply Chain
Management
Certificates: QuickBooks

Later

Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

Foresters
Entry: \$53,460 Average: \$62,820

Degrees: Forestry; Natural
Resources/Conservation

Accountants & Auditors
Entry: \$56,640 Average: \$80,160

Buyers and Purchasing Agents
Entry: \$50,780 Average: \$71,360

Marketing Managers
Entry: \$89,930 Average: \$129,790

Degrees: Accounting; Finance; Marketing
Certificates: Certified Professional Public Buyer

Sources:

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